

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/18/2026 10:58:29 PM

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Comments: Outdoor climbing is a special experience that gives participants an appreciation for the natural world. Climbing needs to be protected and no national organization understands the mechanics, impact, and soul of climbing more than the Access Fund. I urge the body to work with organizations like the Access Fund to ensure that policies are workable, sustainable and support both the environment and climbers.

I support the recognition that climbing is an appropriate Wilderness activity and that fixed anchors, critical pieces of the climbing safety system, are allowable in Wilderness. I also support provisions to allow climbers to place or replace fixed anchors without authorization in the event of an emergency. I appreciate that the policy protects existing climbing routes that were developed before the PARC Act was passed into law. Legacy Wilderness climbs should remain available in order to preserve America's rich climbing legacy.

Please improve policies to expedite timely replacement of fixed anchors in order to avoid unnecessary barriers to climber safety. New routes can enhance the climbing experience and should be allowed on National Forest lands, consistent with existing regulations, even where no climbing management plan has been adopted. Please provide a clear path for new route exploration at areas that lack plans that specifically address climbing.